PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:

10/696,739

Filing Date:

October 28, 2003

Applicant:

Rex Miller et al.

Group Art Unit:

3677

Examiner:

Flemming Saether

Title:

FASTENER FOR SPANNING A LARGE GAP

Attorney Docket:

0275M-000650

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed <u>February 6, 2007</u>, and prior to examination of the present application, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

Applicants hereby petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Please charge our deposit account 02-2550 for the fee incurred with this response for such extension of time as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a).

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.